

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims

The following is a marked-up version of the claims with the language that is underlined (“___”) being added and the language that contains strikethrough (“—”) being deleted:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for blocking unsolicited e-mail transmitted to an e-mail server at an Internet Service Provider (~~ISP~~) ~~from a remote server, (ISP),~~ the method comprising:
 - receiving a user identification (USERID) and a password associated with a ~~roaming~~ customer;
 - retrieving a plurality of data associated with the ~~roaming~~ customer based on the USERID and password;
 - authenticating the ~~roaming~~ customer using the retrieved plurality of data;
 - dynamically adding an IP address assigned to the ~~roaming~~ customer to a plurality of valid IP addresses associated with the ISP; ~~and~~
 - receiving SMTP traffic from the customer;
 - in response to receiving the SMTP traffic, determining, at the e-mail server, whether the customer is associated with a valid IP address; and
 - in response to determining that the customer is associated with a valid IP address, logging the ~~roaming~~ customer onto a mail the e-mail server using the IP address and the plurality of data used to authenticate the ~~roaming~~ customer, wherein only the ~~roaming~~ customer may ~~accesses~~ access the mail server using the assigned IP address ~~from the remote server.~~ address.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein authenticating the ~~roaming~~ customer comprises:

receiving the USERID and password associated with the ~~roaming~~ customer to an authentication ISP;

comparing the USERID and password against at least one USERID and password associated with at least one registered user of the ISP;

generating a negative response if the USERID and password associated with the ~~roaming~~ customer does not match a USERID and password associated with at least one registered customer;

generating a positive response if the USERID and password associated with the ~~roaming~~ customer matches a USERID and password associated with at least one registered customer; and

receiving a START record, the START record indicating the beginning of the ~~roaming~~ customer's access to the ~~mail~~ e-mail server.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of IP addresses are used only by ~~roaming~~ customers registered with the ISP to access the Internet through the a remote server.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein dynamically adding the ~~roaming~~ customer's IP address to a pool of valid IP address comprises:

reading the a START record, a timestamp, a RELAY from the database; and

forwarding the a START record, USERID, password, and IP address for adding the IP address to the pool of valid IP addresses.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein logging the ~~roaming~~ customer onto the ~~mail~~-e-mail server comprises:

initiating an SMTP request to send e-mail from an e-mail application server; and

validating the IP address of the ~~roaming~~ customer against the pool of valid IP addresses.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising logging off the ~~roaming~~ customer from the a remote server.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6, wherein logging off the ~~roaming~~ customer, comprises:

receiving a termination signal by the ~~roaming~~ customer;

transmitting the ~~roaming~~ customer's USERID to the remote server to identify the ~~roaming~~ customer to be logged off; and

receiving a STOP record, wherein the STOP record is operable to identify the ~~roaming~~ customer.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein receiving the STOP record further comprises determining whether the ~~roaming~~ customer has sent any unauthorized email messages.

9. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~connecting a roaming customer to a foreign network access server (NAS) to prevent unsolicited e-mails from being transmitted from the foreign network access server to the roaming customer's Internet Service Provider (ISP), comprising: of preventing unsolicited e-mails from being transmitted via a mail server associated with the Internet Service Provider (ISP) of a customer:~~

~~receiving a user command through an Internet device associated with the roaming customer to connect to the foreign NAS;~~

~~receiving a user identification (USERID) and password, wherein the USERID and password are associated with the roaming customer;~~

~~authenticating the roaming customer as a registered user of the ISP;~~

~~generating a positive response if the roaming customer is a registered user of the ISP;~~

~~receiving a START record indicating that the roaming customer is being logged onto the a Network Access Server (NAS); NAS; and~~

~~writing the START record to a database; database;~~

~~receiving SMTP traffic from the customer for delivery to a recipient;~~

~~in response to receiving the SMTP traffic determining, at the mail server, whether an IP address assigned to the customer is valid; and~~

~~in response to determining that the IP address assigned to the customer is valid, forwarding the SMTP traffic to the recipient.~~

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, further comprising generating a negative response if the ~~roaming~~ customer is not a registered user at the ISP.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein generating a negative response comprises denying the ~~roaming user~~ customer access to the Internet through the NAS.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the START record comprises an IP address, a protocol, a port type, a User name, a called station ID, a calling station ID, an account status type, an account authentication, a service type, an account session ID, a framed protocol, an account delay time, and a start timestamp.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein the ~~[AAA]~~ database contains data organized ~~similar~~ according to a Terminal Access Controller Access Control System (TACACS) format.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein the ~~[AAA]~~ database has been modified to include a USERID field.

15. (Currently Amended) A method of logging on a ~~roaming~~ customer of an Internet Service provider (ISP) onto a mail server ~~via a foreign network access server (NAS)~~ while preventing the unauthorized distribution of ~~foreign~~ SPAM messages ~~from the NAS to the mail server,~~
via the mail server, the method comprising:

~~establishing a network connection between the NAS and the ISP;~~
authenticating that the ~~roaming~~ customer is a registered customer of the ISP;
storing a data log in a database, the data log comprising a plurality of attributes to track
the ~~roaming~~ customer's usage of the network connection; ~~and~~

receiving SMTP traffic from the customer;
in response to receiving the SMTP traffic, determining, at the mail server, whether as IP
address assigned to the customer is valid; and

in response to determining that the IP address assigned to the customer is valid,
connecting the ~~roaming~~ customer to the mail server using the IP ~~address from the NAS.~~ address.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15, further comprising removing the IP address from ~~the~~ a list of at least one valid IP address upon receiving a command to log off the ~~roaming~~ customer from mail server.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15, wherein authenticating the ~~roaming~~ customer comprises:

receiving a user identification (USERID) and a password associated with the ~~roaming~~ customer;

comparing the USERID and password from the ~~roaming~~ customer to a list of at least one USERID and password associated with at least one registered customer of the ISP;

transmitting a positive response if the USERID and password associated with the ~~roaming~~ customer matches a USERID and password associated with a registered customer from the list; and

transmitting a negative response if the USERID and password does not match a USERID and password associated with at least one registered customer of the ISP from the list of at least one USERID and password stored at the authentication server.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15, further comprising, creating a data log associated with the ~~roaming~~ customer, wherein the data log comprises a START identifier, the USERID and password associated with the ~~roaming~~ customer, the IP address assigned to the ~~roaming~~ customer, a RELAY to the mail server from ~~the NAS~~, a Network Access Server (NAS), and a timestamp indicating the starting time the ~~roaming~~ customer logged onto the mail server.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising assigning an IP address to the ~~roaming~~ customer.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, further comprising transferring the USERID to an authentication server on the ISP.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, further comprising transmitting the USERID and password from the Internet device to the ~~foreign~~-NAS.
22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, further comprising assigning a local IP address to the ~~roaming~~ customer, the local IP address being selected from a plurality of IP addresses at the ~~foreign~~-NAS.
23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, further comprising not allowing the ~~roaming~~ customer to authenticate.
24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the START record comprises a NAS IP address, a NAS protocol, a NAS port type, a User name, a called station ID, a calling station ID, an account status type, an account authentication, a service type, an account authentication, a service type, an account session ID, a framed protocol, an account delay time, and a start timestamp.
25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, further comprising transferring the data log to a mail access server at the ISP.
26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15, further comprising assigning an IP address to the ~~roaming~~ customer to access the mail server.

27. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 26, further comprising adding the IP address assigned to the ~~roaming~~ customer to a list of a valid IP address ~~from the NAS~~ that are allowed to access the mail server on the ISP.